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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 18 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As Acting Secretary of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America, I am writing to you in order to transmit copies in English and Spanish of the Statement of Intent for Sustainable Development Cooperation and Joint Implementation of Measures to Reduce Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by the Governments of the United States of America, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, which was signed on 9 June 1995 at San José, Costa Rica (see annex).

I request you to have the aforementioned Statement of Intent circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 98 of the provisional agenda "Environment and sustainable development".

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS BY GREENHOUSE GASES BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND PANAMA

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States of America through the Department of Energy, and the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama ("The Participants") recognize that enhancing environmental protection, and, in particular, controlling greenhouse gas emissions to limit potential adverse climate change impacts, would be mutually beneficial;

WHEREAS, the Participants recognize that limiting the adverse impacts of climate change requires a global solution, to which the Participants can make significant contributions, and the Participants have a mutual interest in working together in this area;

WHEREAS, the Participants recognize that article 4.2 of the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change, to which the Participants are signatories, encourage developed and developing countries to cooperatively pursue the rapid development and joint implementation of mutually voluntary, cost-effective projects, particularly technology projects aimed at reducing or sequestering emissions of greenhouse gases and at promoting sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Participants will benefit from the deployment and use of sustainable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction and sequestration technologies and methods;

WHEREAS, the Participants recognize the potential for additional investment, environmentally, socially and economically sound development through the participation of the private sector in joint implementation of measures and technology cooperation projects to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS the Participants recognize that many methods and technologies that limit greenhouse gas emissions also contribute to the control of local and regional environmental problems and that verifiable, cost-effective, world-wide greenhouse gas emission reductions may be achieved by encouraging such reductions in countries where responsive solutions are available through investment and possible financial and technical assistance from individuals and organizations in industrialized countries;

The Participants declare as follows:

The Participants hereby intend to facilitate the development of joint implementation projects which should encourage the following: market deployment of greenhouse gas-reducing technologies, including energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; education and training programmes, increased

diversification of energy sources; conservation, restoration, and enhancement of forest carbon sinks, especially in areas that promote biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution; and the exchange of information regarding sustainable forestry and energy technologies;

The Participants invite other nations to endorse this Statement of Intent, indicating the intention of the Governments to participate in sustainable development cooperation and the joint implementation of measures to reduce emissions and increase sinks of greenhouse gases. This cooperation may contribute to the international establishment of an accessible joint implementation regime that is sensitive to environmental, developmental, social and economic priorities. This cooperation should encourage partnerships involving the Participants, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other entities.

The Participants intend that the forms of cooperation under this framework may include the following:

(a) The designation of a government office for each Participant country, with the responsibility for project evaluation and issuance of official statements of project acceptance;

(b) The identification and support of projects by the Participants that are likely to meet the criteria for joint implementation pilot programmes;

(c) The design of methodologies and mechanisms to establish procedures for monitoring and external verification of greenhouse gas reductions, and the tracking and attribution of such reductions, consistent with the criteria for project selection being developed by established, national joint implementation pilot programmes;

(d) The outreach and promotion of joint implementation and other sustainable development activities among the private and public sectors and the non-governmental organizations, including dissemination of information about the national criteria of the Participants for joint implementation projects, and supporting technical assistance resources through workshops, conferences and information networks;

(e) Support, at international forums of the international pilot phase for joint implementation, including at the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This pilot phase should:

(i) be open to all Parties;

(ii) be voluntary and additional;

(iii) be focused primarily on information exchange and the rapid development of effective international criteria for joint implementation; and

(iv) leave the assessment of individual projects to individual Governments and/or the private entities involved;

(f) The facilitation of the timely ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for those that have not yet done so;

(g) The exploration of credible certification of emissions reductions, especially the determination of reasonable greenhouse gas emission baselines at the project level;

(h) The design of activities and projects implemented in accordance with this Statement of Intent, for the purposes of:

(i) encouraging increased private sector involvement in sustainable development and joint implementation projects;

(ii) fostering the establishment of continuous financing vehicles that may help establish mechanisms to assist private entrepreneurs to build successful enterprises that support joint implementation-related energy, industrial, transport and forestry sector projects;

(iii) providing information concerning additional sources of project funding and the policy framework needed to facilitate access to them; and

(iv) providing information concerning arrangements of business agreements, joint ventures and licensing agreements between companies in industrialized countries and enterprises in developing countries.

The Participants intend to examine the need for provisions to ensure against loss of greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved through jointly implemented projects.

The Participants intend that any joint implementation project or other joint activity or arrangements undertaken pursuant to this Statement of Intent will be on terms accepted by all parties to the transaction. Furthermore, the Participants intend to include appropriate patent and other intellectual property rights provisions, as well as provisions to protect businesses' confidential information, in any such plans or arrangements. In particular, in the event that any activity involves access to and the sharing or transfer of technology subject to patents or other intellectual property rights, such access and sharing or transfer should be provided on terms which recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

An original text, in English and in Spanish, of this Declaration will be deposited at the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, and at the Office of International Energy Policy, U.S. Department of Energy.

Signed at San Jose, Costa Rica, on this 9th day of June 1995, in nine originals, in both English and Spanish.